

Appl. No. 10/760,384
Amendment dated: February 13, 2007
Reply to OA of: August 14, 2006

REMARKS

This is in response to the Official Action of August 14, 2006 in connection with the above-identified application. Applicants have amended the claims of the instant application in order to more precisely define the scope of the present invention, taking into consideration the outstanding Official Action.

Applicants begin by noting with appreciation the indication in the outstanding Official Action that claims 7, 8, 17 and 18 recite allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent format including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In light of this indication, Applicants have amended the independent claims of the instant application to incorporate the allowable subject matter recited in claims 7, 8, 17 and 18. Specifically, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 3, 7 and 8 and have amended claim 9 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 11, 17 and 18. In view of these amendments, Applicants have canceled claims 3, 7, 8, 11, 17 and 18 from the instant application.

As claims 1 and 9 now recite allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 9 and all claims depending therefrom are in immediate condition for allowance.

In view of the above comments and further amendments to the claims, favorable reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims now present in the application are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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